

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-288 (Canceled)

289. (Currently amended) A method for evaluating a proposed electric power transaction involving the sale and purchase of electric power between at least one energy service provider and at least one customer, comprising:

identifying an electric load of a customer;

modeling a combination of the electric load of the customer with existing electric power supply obligations of an energy service provider; and

determining an effect upon the energy service provider's efficiency of energy usage of combining the electric load of the customer with the existing electric power supply obligations of the energy service provider.

290. (Previously presented) The method of claim 289, further comprising providing data relevant to pricing the proposed electric power transaction between the customer and the energy service provider.

291. (Previously presented) The method of claim 289, wherein identifying the electric load of the customer includes:

accessing a database including data relating to the electric load of the customer;

selecting at least one discrete criterion; and

determining whether the data in the database relating to the electric load of the customer satisfy the at least one discrete criterion.

292. (Previously presented) The method of claim 291, wherein the electric load data are normalized.

293. (Previously presented) The method of claim 291, wherein the at least one discrete criterion includes one of a specified load shape characteristic, a load factor, a power factor, a size of load, a location of load, and a customer SIC code.

294. (Previously presented) The method of claim 289, wherein determining the effect on the efficiency of energy usage includes determining a change in the energy service provider's efficiency in electric energy usage as a result of (i) adding all of the customer's electric load to the supply obligations of the energy service provider, (ii) adding a portion of the customer's electric load to the supply obligations of the energy service provider, (iii) removing all of the customer's electric load from the supply obligations of the energy service provider, or (iv) removing a portion of the customer's electric load from the supply obligations of the energy service provider.

295. (Previously presented) The method of claim 294, wherein determining an effect on the efficiency of electric energy usage includes evaluating whether the energy service provider would be required to acquire an additional electric power supply in order to service the added electric load.

296. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 289, wherein determining the effect on the efficiency of energy usage includes  
selecting at least one impact criterion; and  
determining whether combining the electric load of the customer with the electric power supply obligations of the energy service provider would satisfy the selected impact criterion.

297. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 296, wherein the at least one impact criterion includes a change in a load factor as a result of combining the electric load of the customer with the electric power supply obligations of the energy service provider.

298. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 296, wherein determining whether the at least one impact criterion is satisfied is made in relation to a combination of the electric

power supply obligations of the energy service provider with one of (i) an aggregated electric load of the customer and (ii) an aggregated electric load of at least two customers.

299. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 296, wherein the at least one impact criterion includes one of (i) maximum hourly demand, (ii) change in integral multiple factor, (iii) maximum load duration value decrease, (iv) minimum load duration value increase, (v) amount available capacity can be exceeded, (vi) minimum integral multiple factor increase, (vii) maximum integral multiple factor decrease, (viii) minimum loadfactor increase, and (ix) maximum load factor decrease.

300. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 296, wherein the impact criterion includes determining a change in energy service provider's efficiency in electric energy usage as a result of (i) adding all of the customer's electric load to the supply obligations of the energy service provider, (ii) adding a portion of the customer's electric load to the supply obligations of the energy service provider, (iii) removing all of the customer's electric load from the supply obligations of the energy service provider, or (iv) removing a portion of the customer's electric load from the supply obligations of the energy service provider.

Claims 301-307 (Canceled)

308. (Previously presented) A method for evaluating historical transactions involving the sale and purchase of electric power between at least one energy service provider and at least one customer, comprising:

- identifying a historical transaction between a customer and an energy service provider;

- modeling a combination of the electric load of the customer in the historical transaction to the electric power supply obligations of the energy service provider in the historical transaction; and

- determining whether combining the electric load of the customer with the electric power supply obligations of the service provider in the historical transaction improved an efficiency of energy usage by the service provider.

309. (Previously presented) The method of claim 308, wherein identifying the historical transaction includes

- accessing a first database including data relating to historical transactions between customers and energy service providers;
- selecting at least one discrete criterion; and
- identifying whether the data in the first database relating to the historical transactions satisfy the at least one discrete criterion.

310. (Previously presented) The method of claim 308, wherein the data in the first database are normalized.

311. (Previously presented) The method of claim 308, wherein the at least one discrete criterion includes one of a specified load shape characteristic, a load factor, a power factor, a size of load, a location of load, and a customer SIC code.

312. (Previously presented) The method of claim 311, wherein determining whether combining the electric load of the customer to the existing electric power supply obligations of the service provider in the historical transactions improved the efficiency of energy usage includes:

- selecting at least one impact criterion; and
- determining whether combining the electric load of the customer in the historical transaction with the electric power supply obligations of the energy service provider in the historical transaction satisfies the at least one impact criterion.

Claims 313-318 (Canceled)

319. (Previously presented) A system for evaluating a proposed transaction involving the sale and purchase of electric power between at least one energy service provider and at least one customer, comprising:

- a processor; and

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a computer program to be executed by the processor, the executed computer program  
identifying an electric load of a customer,  
combining the electric load of the customer with the existing electric power supply obligations of an energy service provider, and  
determining an effect on an efficiency of energy usage by the service provider as a result of combining the electric load of the customer with the existing electric power supply obligations of the energy service provider.

320. (Previously presented) The system of claim 319, wherein the processor is in a computer processor system including one of a personal computer, a server computer, a mainframe computer, a microcomputer, and a minicomputer.

321. (Previously presented) The system of claim 320, wherein the computer processor system is in a distributed computing environment.

Claims 322-326 (Canceled)

327. (Previously presented) A retail electric power exchange, comprising:  
an electric power exchange node; and  
at least one exchange database coupled to the exchange node,  
wherein the power exchange node includes a retail load search engine capable of  
identifying an electric load of a customer stored in the exchange database,  
modeling a combination of the electric load of the customer with the existing electric power supply obligations of an energy service provider stored in the exchange database, and  
determining an effect on an efficiency of energy usage by the service provider of combining the electric load of the customer with the existing electric power supply obligations of the energy service provider.

328. (Previously presented) The retail electric power exchange of claim 327, wherein the

exchange node includes a retail trading engine capable of arranging the proposed transaction involving the combination of the customer's electric load and the electric power supply obligations of the energy service provider.

329. (Previously presented) The retail electric power exchange of claim 327, wherein the electric load of the customer includes an aggregation of multiple electric loads of the customer.

330. (Previously presented) The retail electric power exchange of claim 327, wherein the exchange node includes a retail price search engine capable of:

- identifying a historical transaction between a customer and an energy service provider;

- modeling the combination of the electric load of the customer in the historical transaction with the electric power supply obligations of the energy service provider in the historical transaction;

- determining whether combining the electric load of the customer with the electric power supply obligations of the service provider in the historical transaction improved an efficiency of energy usage of the service provider;

- providing pricing data concerning the historical transaction; and

- providing data relevant to pricing the proposed transaction involving the purchase and sale of electric power between the customer and the energy service provider.

Claims 331-337 (Canceled)

Claims 338-345 (Withdrawn)

Claims 346-367 (Canceled)

368. (Withdrawn).